

Hawthorn Happenings

Parent Newsletter



Sandy Hemaya, Principal

Sasha Erwin, Assist. Principal

Dear Parents,

Can you believe it is October already? The time is flying by and we are quickly approaching the end of our first academic quarter as well as our fall parent/teacher conferences. October 12th, will be the end of first quarter and teachers will be sending grade cards home on October 19th. Along with your child's grade card will be another document titled, "Expected Performance Form". This form lets you know what level, 1,2,3, or ,4 each standard was assessed at for this quarter. For example, if sequencing was taught during first quarter, but the students are not expected to master it, or perform at the "3" level yet, teachers would assess it for the "2" level. If your child received a "2" on this standard, this would let you know they are performing where they should be at this time. If they received a "1.5" that would let you know they have not quite performed at the "2" level. If they receive a "3" on this standard this would tell you they are performing better than the expectation at this time. Our goal is to have every student performing at a level "3" by the end of the year, so hopefully this form will provide additional information to your child's academic performance at Hawthorn.

Our fall Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on October 24th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on October 25th from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you have not done so already, please call the front office at 359-4390 to schedule an appointment. This is a great time for you to meet with your child's teacher and have an opportunity for you to have an in-depth conversations about their academic progress in Math, Reading, Writing, Science and Social Studies as well as their social growth in terms of interactions with adults and other students. Our goal at Hawthorn is to have 100% parent participation for our conferences, so if you can't attend on the 24th or 25th, your child's teacher will be calling you to have a phone conference. It takes all of us working together to have a successful school and for our students to learn!

Our last big event in October will be our fall parties on October 31st from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. Your child's teacher will be contacting you for help with these parties and you may begin arriving at school at 1:45 to set up for the parties. We will have a sign in table in the Magic Circle when you arrive to sign in and then you will be able to sign your child out in their classroom. We will have a short parade beginning at 2:00 pm and students are allowed to wear costumes, however this is optional. We hope this is a fun, safe time for our students and hope many parents will be able to join us!

Sandy Hemaya

Important September Dates:

- 10/11—"Mathletics" Competition at UC
- 10/12—Math-A-Thon Test
- 10/12—End of 1st Quarter
- 10/12—PTA Family Movie Night—6:30 pm
- 10/14—National School Lunch & Bus Safety Week
- 10/15—No School—Teacher Work Day
- 10/18—4th Grade Musical
- 10/19—Math-A-Thon Money Due
- 10/24 & 25—Parent Teacher Conferences
- 10/30—3rd Grade Demo
- 10/31—Fall Parties—2:00 pm



Safety Drills

Each school in the Park Hill School District is required to perform safety drills throughout the school year. We are required to perform the following drills to help prepare our students in the event of an emergency.

Fire drill—1 time each month

Severe weather drill—1 time each semester

Earthquake drill—1 time each year

Security Hold and Lock Down—1 time each semester

We have been busy practicing these drills this fall at Hawthorn. In September, we had our monthly fire drill as well as our first severe weather drill. During this drill, the students are escorted into the hallways or restrooms and asked to crouch down with their hands over their heads. Today, October 5th, we had our monthly fire drill and the students did an excellent job of exiting the building quietly and quickly. We will also practice our Security drills later this month. The Security Hold drill consists of teachers locking their doors and continuing to teach. We would use this procedure if there was a stray animal or something in our building and we wanted to make sure students stayed in their classrooms. A Security Alert or Lock Down drill is when the teachers lock their doors, shut their blinds and the students hide away from the window. This procedure would be used if there was an unwanted visitor in our building who would pose a threat to staff members or students. The goal of this procedure is to make our building seem empty. It is amazing how quiet a building of 460 students can be. We will be having our Earthquake drill in March, and during this drill the students get under a table or desk in an effort to protect themselves if something should fall if there ever was an earthquake.

I am very proud of our students and staff for the seriousness they put forth with our safety drills. We hope we never have to use them, but in the event we do, I am confident we will be prepared at Hawthorn.

We also have interior and exterior cameras here at Hawthorn to help us monitor both the inside and outside of the building. These cameras are running all day, everyday which is very helpful with incidences that may occur outside the normal school hours.

Recycling at Hawthorn

Recycling is an effort that is good for our environment and also can raise money for our school. At Hawthorn, we are asking for you to join in our recycling efforts by bringing your recyclable items to Hawthorn when possible. In the corner of the north parking lot are two bins for paper only and next to the school by the large trash dumpster is a “co-mingled” bin which is for cardboard, aluminum, and plastic items. This bin says “cardboard only” on it, but you are able to put the other items in there as well. I am working on getting a new bin that will be placed by the others in the parking lot, but have not completed this task as of yet. Thanks in advance for helping us to not only help our environment, but to help raise money for our school as well. If you have any questions regarding our recycling efforts, please give me a call at 359-4390.

Hawthorn’s School Fundraiser is Here

Hawthorn will host a Math-A-Thon again this year to raise money for our school. Each student will bring home a pledge sheet on Monday, October 1st and they are encouraged to collect pledges either a certain amount for each problem correct, or a “flat” donation amount. On October 12th, each student at Hawthorn will take a 20 question math test at 9:00 am. The teachers will then grade the test and send them home on Friday, October 12th and students can begin collecting their pledged money. They can either bring the money directly to the office or to their classroom. We are hoping to have all money collected by Friday, October 19th.

This is the only large fundraiser we do for our school and we use this money to purchase educational supplies for our classrooms and for teachers to attend trainings that will help them become better teachers of their grade level or content area. We truly appreciate your support here at Hawthorn!



If you have any questions, please call the Hawthorn office at

359-4390.

Holiday Celebrations at Hawthorn

Holiday celebrations are conducted a little different at Hawthorn and with many new families who have joined our Husky family, I wanted to share our practices for each of our holiday celebrations.

Fall Parties

Our Fall Parties will be on Wednesday, October 31st, with our costume parade beginning at 2:00 pm. Any student who chooses to dress up will parade around the school, maybe outside if the weather cooperates, and then return to their classroom for snacks and drinks. Many grade level teachers have taken on the practice of assigning parents what to bring. This distributes the work load evenly and takes the responsibility off just one or two parents. Also, in a time when childhood obesity is at it's highest, we do ask parents to consider providing healthy choices for our students. Park Hill will continue to have the practice of only store bought treats for our student celebrations. If you have questions regarding this practice, please give the office a call at 359-4390.

Winter Celebrations

Our Winter Celebration will be held on December 21st, from 10:00 to 11:00 am. Our Encore Teachers will host the 4th Annual Reindeer Games which includes 1/2 of our students as participants. Parents are welcome to attend this assembly to either watch or join in the fun. Students will return to class when the games have ended and our dismissal will be at 11:45 am. There will be no treats offered on this day to our students and parents are welcome to check out their child when they leave after the Reindeer Games.

Valentine's Celebrations

Our Valentine's Celebrations will be held on Thursday, February 14th from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. We will begin our celebration with a school wide activity assembly in the gym with lots of physical activities the other 1/2 of our students will be involved in. When the assembly is over, students will return to their classrooms and will enjoy a snack and drink supplied by Hawthorn and our wonderful PTA. Students will also have time to distribute Valentine's to their classmates at this time.

Hawthorn's McTeacher Night

Please mark your calendars for Hawthorn's 3rd Annual Fall McTeacher Night on Monday, November 5, 2012. This is a change of date, due to construction at the Barry Road McDonald's. This event has proven to be a great night for Hawthorn families to get together outside of school, save Mom or Dad from having to cook, let's students see our teachers in a different role, and helps to raise money for our school. Teachers will sign up for an hour to work from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm and all you have to do is come eat! The past has left McDonald's with "standing room only" and we hope that is the case for this year as well. If you are busy, which we know you are, and can only swing through the drive-through, that is great and tell your family and friends about this as well. McDonald's will donate 20% of the money made from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, not just from HW families, but from everyone who purchases food and drinks during this time.

This money is used for teachers to purchase educational resources, such as Mountain Math, Mountain Language, Smart Board Applications etc. All of this money goes back to the classrooms for your students to benefit from!

We hope to see you at McDonald's anytime between 4:00 pm and 8:00pm.



Stay connected to Hawthorn!

For current updates, resources, calendar, staff directory, teacher websites, photos & more:

www.parkhill.k12.mo.us/HawthornElementary

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HawthornElementary

Follow us @ HawthornElemen

Hawthorn Heroes

Each month at Hawthorn we highlight a life skill we want our students to learn and apply while here at Hawthorn and at home. At the end of the month, we then have a small celebration for those who were chosen the Hawthorn Heroes for their class. During this celebration, the students are given a window decal and have a chance to sign a poster promoting the life skill. This poster will be hung up in the front hall at Hawthorn for the year for all to see.

Below are the life skills we will be working on each month.

September—Respect

October—Responsibility

November—Positive Role Model

December—Compassion

January—Kindness

February—Honesty

March—Perseverance

April—Effort

Below are the students at Hawthorn who were chosen as February Hawthorn Heroes for showing EFFORT during the month.

Brock Keller	Kelly Stephenson	Carly Wells	Aidan Young	Gracie Hecht
Gavin Franke	Morgan Scribner	Bobbye Bye	Maryn Yager	Christopher Lydon
Luke Spaeth	Megan Spicer	Emma Grammill	Grant Dixon	Kaylee Wade
Zoe McFarland	Grant Gwartney	Ella Scantlin	Emma Davis	Kira Heese
Mary Jo Guarino	Kristoffer Shafe	Kaitlyn Bezingue	Leah Helm	Addison Mobley
Audrey Bolyard	Zane Greenfield	Alexis Lindsey	Sarah Dunn	Brandon Barnett
Renee Roth	Cole Guzzo	Jonathan Nolan	Alex Coleman	Sara Lam
Emerson Walker	Kaeden Pak	Nathan Renton	Amanda Rivera	Tyler Alt
Cole Pittman	Tia Shepard	Mateo Zamora	Rosie Wilson	Codie Davidson
Cassidy Whorton	Jake Fickensher	Brooke Bye	William Flanigan	Pippa Hull
Allen Hayes				

Congratulations to all our Hawthorn Heroes for the month of September!

Helpful Hints for Parent/Teacher Conferences
By Sasha Erwin—Hawthorn Assistant Principal

It's hard to believe Parent Teacher Conferences are at the end of the month! This is a great time for parents and teachers to exchange information to better meet the needs of students. Parents are experts on their child's behavior outside of school, home life, and previous experiences that affect school. Teachers understand your child's learning strengths and weaknesses and how your child interacts with peers. Combining information helps create a strong plan for success.

Below are some tips to help you make the most your child's conference.

Before the Conference:

Talk to your child. This will give you insight on your child's perception of school. Your child might be sharing information with you that could help your child's classroom teacher. Prepare by jotting down notes about topics you want to address at the conference. Be sure to let the teacher know if there is a particular issue you want to discuss.

During the Conference:

Arrive early. You don't want to be late when you only have 20 minutes to meet with your child's teacher.
Enter with the right attitude. The goal of both the teacher and the parent should be the successes of the student.
Ask questions if you need clarification or want suggestions on how you can help at home.
Take notes to help remember what was discussed.

After the Conference:

Update your child. Start with the positive thing the teacher had to say and then share any concerns you and the teacher discussed. Share ideas about everyone working together to ensure your child has a successful year.
If the teacher brings something to your attention that needs to be addressed, take the steps to put a plan into motion. Follow up with the teacher, if needed.
Remember, you can always set up a time to meet with your child's teacher throughout the year.
Continue to take part in your child's education. Knowing what is being taught at school helps your direct school conversations at home.